

In the Claims

The following amendments are made with respect to the claims in the International application PCT/GB2005/000121.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (original). An ink formulation comprising a marking component and a metal salt that absorbs laser irradiation at 700-2000 nm and thereby causes the marking component to change colour.

2 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to claim 1, wherein the metal is a transition metal.

3 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to claim 2, wherein the metal is copper.

4 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the salt is a poly-metal salt.

5 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, which additionally comprises a compound including an oxymetal anion.

6 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, which additionally comprises a colour-forming compound.

7 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, which additionally comprises a binder.

8 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, which is water-based.

9 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The formulation according to ~~any preceding claims claim 1~~, which comprises an organic solvent.

10 (currently amended). A method for forming an image on a substrate, which comprises applying onto the substrate ~~a formulation according to any preceding claim, and irradiating it~~ an ink formulation comprising a marking component and a metal salt that absorbs laser irradiation at 700-2000 nm and thereby causes the marking component to change colour, wherein said method further comprises irradiating the formulation with a laser.

11 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The method according to claim 10, wherein the laser is a diode or CO₂ laser.

12 (new). An ink formulation comprising a marking component and a metal salt, wherein the marking component in the absence of the metal salt undergoes a colour change in response to laser irradiation at a wavelength above 2000 nm but not between 700-2000 nm, and the metal salt absorbs laser radiation at 700-2000 nm thereby causing the marking component to change colour.

13 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, wherein the metal is a transition metal.

14 (new). The formulation according to claim 13, wherein the metal is copper.

15 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, wherein the salt is a poly-metal salt.

16 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, wherein the salt is copper hydroxyl phosphate.

17 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, which additionally comprises a compound including an oxymetal anion.

18 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, which additionally comprises a colour-forming compound.

19 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, which additionally comprises a binder.

20 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, which is water-based.

21 (new). The formulation according to claim 12, which comprises an organic solvent.

22 (new). A method for forming an image on a substrate, which comprises applying onto the substrate an ink formulation comprising a marking component and a metal salt, wherein the marking component in the absence of the metal salt undergoes a colour change in response to laser irradiation at a wavelength above 2000 nm but not between 700-2000 nm, and the metal salt absorbs laser radiation at 700-2000 nm thereby causing the marking component to change colour wherein said method further comprises irradiating the formulation with a laser.

23 (currently amended). ~~[[A]]~~The method according to claim 22, wherein the laser is a diode or CO₂ laser.